



Why Would We Despair?

"It is impossible for us to despair if we remember that our Helper is omnipotent." Jeremy Taylor

I was assuming when I wrote this Monday morning, that by the time you all read this, the election would be over and we would know who the president is. Now it's Friday morning and I'm rewriting this first paragraph. I think all of us are concerned and maybe even a bit aghast at how this election continues to unfold. I still believe that God is raising up our next leader, but I haven't a clue why He chooses whoever He chooses. For my part I just trust in God to know what is best for the whole world, and not just my own household.

To what degree do we believe that our God is all powerful? Do we believe it only when our life is grand and all our lines are falling in even rows? Or do we also believe it when our life is fragmented into tiny pieces of difficulty and distress? Do we believe when we are deeply disappointed? How omnipotent is our God?

Let's take a moment to consider that despair is NOT a gift from God. It is a bitter tool of the devil to cause people to turn against God and against one another. If the devil can keep us in despair he can keep us from turning our faces and our hopes to Almighty God.

I find great instruction in **Psalm 69**, which is a prayer from David to God in a time of distress in his life. He cries out: **"Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me. I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God....Insults have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none." (vs. 1-3,20).**

Life can surely be distressing sometimes. In election years it can seem even more distressing than usual. Have you ever felt so distressed that you could relate to the psalm above? Maybe you are there right now!

Can we adopt the attitude of the apostle Paul, who wrote to his brethren in Corinth, **"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair.... (2 Corinthians 4:8)?** Satan will see to it that we have some lousy days. He'll be sure to hide bear traps in the grass so that every step of our path is fraught with hazard. If we trust in God, though, we will make the journey fine. Our God is omnipotent and good while Satan is merely wicked. For the record, every person raised up as president is merely mortal.

For David, the answer to his despair lay fully in God. In **vs. 13-15**, he prays, **"But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me. With your faithful help rescue me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters. Do not let the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the Pit close its mouth over me."** Sounds like a great prayer! Amen! And amen! —Keith